## 8.21 DEVELOPED RECREATIONAL COMPLEXES

*Theme:* Areas are managed to provide a variety of recreational opportunities in highly developed, multiple-site recreational complexes.

### Desired Condition

*Physical/Biological*

Maintain or improve biological communities to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors, complement the recreational values, and provide a variety of vegetation structural stages and plant communities. Emphasize the health, sustainability, and appearance of these communities to maintain their desirability for recreational use. This includes manipulating vegetation to accommodate both existing and new facilities. Manage habitat in and around recreational complexes to provide for a variety of "watchable" wildlife species. Control of insect and disease populations is featured. Accomplish vegetation management through human manipulation. Manage riparian communities and aquatic ecosystems to provide safe recreational access and to prevent unacceptable resource damage to water features. Evidence of disturbance and human use may be present, but a healthy and attractive appearance of these ecosystems is maintained because of their desirability for recreational use.

There is little visible evidence of undesirable plant species. Occasional areas of bare and compacted soil, erosion, litter, or other associated disturbances outside of designated use areas and travelways may be evident.

*Social*

Recreational opportunities occur in an intensively managed, highly regulated environment modified to accommodate a high level of interaction among users. These complexes include combinations of campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, road and trail networks, information stations, entry stations, water-based recreation and other support facilities. Provide access to and parking for sites, natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide desired recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, bicycling, winter use, fishing, and scenic driving. There are few, if any, opportunities for solitude.

Onsite regulations and controls are obvious but harmonize with the natural setting to the extent possible. Multiple information stations or kiosks provide visitors with information about the area. Directional and regulatory signs are widely used to identify requirements for use of the area. Entrance stations may be present and access controlled to an established capacity.

*Administrative*

Develop facilities to meet recreational needs. Facilities are accessible, highly developed, and may include items such as flush toilets and showers. Provide hardened sites to meet user needs

and to protect resources. Roads and recreational sites may be paved. Trails are generally highly maintained and may be surfaced. Most facilities meet standards for accessibility mandated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Maintain facilities in a good, clean, sanitary, and safe condition.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to enhance the current or proposed opportunities. Retain sites that are still functioning as developed sites or still meet other compatible NFS purposes. Dispose of parcels that no longer function as developed sites and do not meet other NFS purposes. Acquire rights-of way needed to meet resource goals and objectives and to enhance recreational opportunities. Allow compatible special uses.

**Standards and Guidelines**

1. **(GL)** Restrict vegetation management operations during periods of high recreational use (weekends, holidays, high-use seasons, etc.) to maintain the desired recreational setting or to reduce interference with recreational activities.

## 8.22 SKI-BASED RESORTS (BOTH EXISTING AND POTENTIAL)

*Theme:* Areas with ski-based resorts or potential for ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreational uses.

**Desired Condition**

*Physical/Biological*

Maintain or improve vegetation composition and structure to provide a pleasing appearance, maintain scenic views from the site and provide for sustainable vegetation cover. A variety of tree and associated plant species are present. Arrangement of vegetation and featured species complement the area's appearance, provide for user safety, and minimize maintenance costs.

Manage scenic resources so that the character is one of forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Manage tree stands and islands to provide a variety of species and size classes, stability, longevity, esthetics, and wind firmness to sustain forest cover and complement recreational values. Ski operations that affect water, including snowmaking and other water-depleting activities, will be compatible with maintenance of healthy aquatic ecosystems.

*Social*

Design new human modifications to vegetation to resemble natural patterns or patterns typical of the particular area. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance.

Encounters between individuals or parties are frequent during winter-use seasons and vary from infrequent to frequent during summer-use seasons. Sounds from people or motorized recreational activities are common and limit opportunities for solitude or isolation.

Recreational opportunities are primarily those at the developed level. The base area is often an urban setting. Views and vistas outside the area, but visible from within, may be featured. Wildlife-viewing opportunities may be available.

Evidence of past human activities or habitation due to mining, milling, or grazing may be present. Blend existing improvements such as improved roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. Design new improvements to be minimally intrusive into the landscape.

*Administrative*

Facilities provided on site vary from rustic to highly developed, depending on the individual site. Directional, regulatory, and informational signs are common to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information. Personal contacts by

Forest Service personnel are common and are generally for the purpose of providing information and administering permits.

Improve areas to restore the desired appearance. Improvements are owned by permittee. Master plans for special-use permits ensure that facilities harmonize and blend with the natural setting. Travelways constructed and maintained under terms of the permit will meet Forest Service standards. Design ski runs to avoid snow scour and to favor snow deposition.

Assess land-adjustment strategies on a case-by-case basis. Allow only special uses that do not interfere with the permittee's business operations of the ski area.

**Standards and Guidelines**

1. **(ST)** Withdraw the area from locatable mineral entry.

2. **(GL)** Retain vegetation for screening around structures where vegetation recovery will be slow.

3. **(GL)** Prohibit cutting trees or locating structures in areas that promote snow loading in avalanche starting zones.

## 8.3 UTILITY CORRIDORS AND ELECTRONIC SITES

*Theme:* Areas are managed for utility corridors and electronic sites. These areas include major oil and gas pipelines, electric power transmission lines, and major communication systems, including telephone and microwave.

### Desired Condition

Vegetation composition and structure has been altered to meet the needs of the site. Larger trees are removed to allow for a safety area below and to the side of powerlines. Smaller trees are still present. Other areas such as pipelines and electronic sites have been cleared of all trees. The boundaries of the cut areas bordering the utility corridor are blended into the surrounding vegetation.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife are good. Wildlife species that prefer edge habitats, such as deer, are the most common. Raptors are often seen within the corridor although they may not nest there. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus is on protection and maintenance of those habitats.

Human development is obvious and may dominate the foreground views. Uses within the corridor are compatible with adjacent management areas. Both motorized and nonmotorized use occur in the area.

An extensive road system exists throughout most of the area for purposes of allowing access for maintenance of the utility. Most roads have a native surface with water bars to reduce erosion. Road use may be restricted to use by utility maintenance vehicles.

All landownership adjustments must be compatible with the strategy of the management area objective through which the corridor passes.

### Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Design and construction of power transmission and distribution lines will minimize electrocution hazards for raptors and provide nest sites where feasible.

2. **(GL)** Utility Corridors and electronic sites will be located and designed to blend with the landscape. They will be compatible with the scenic integrity objectives of adjacent management areas.

Figure 3.1

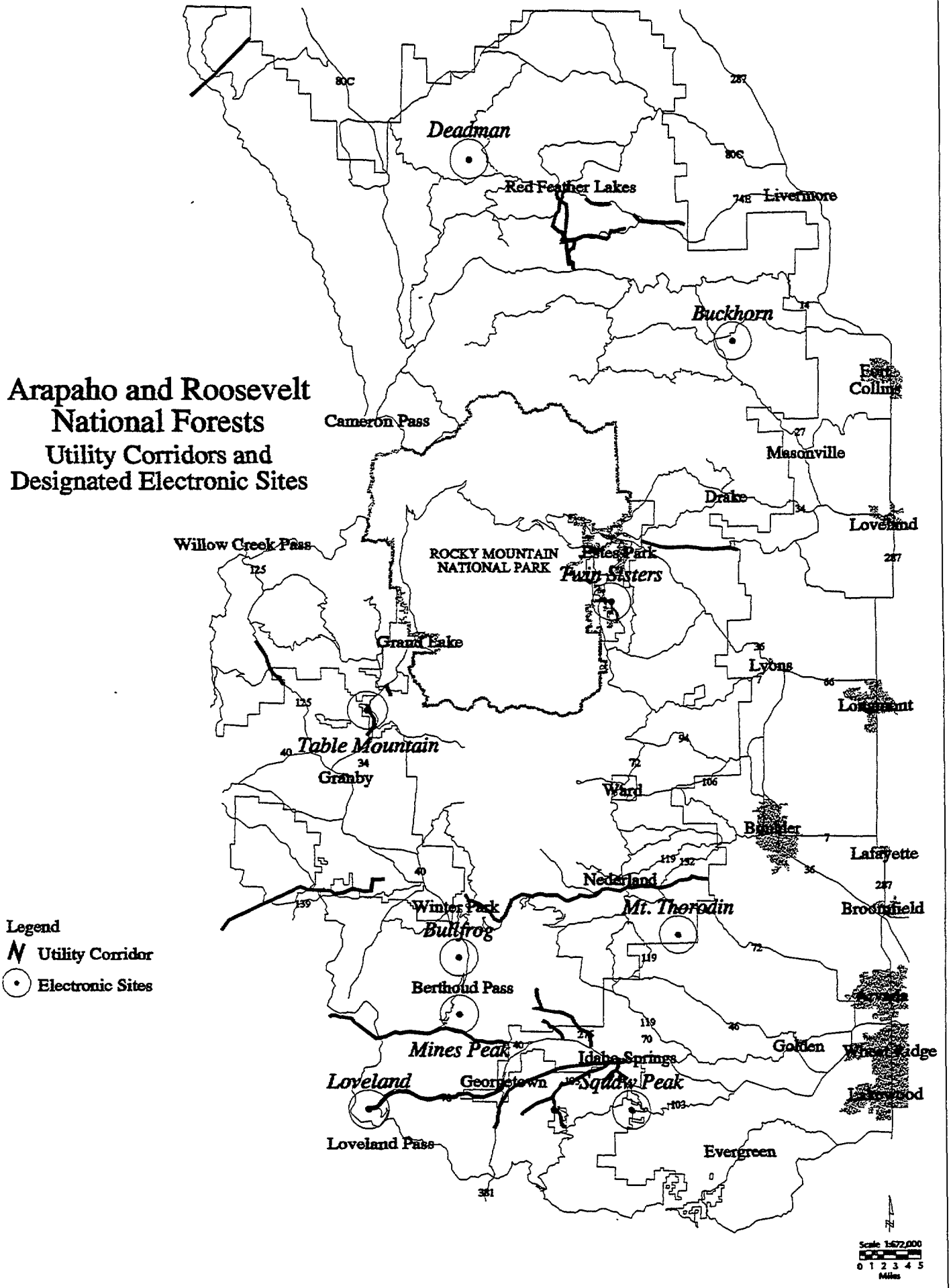
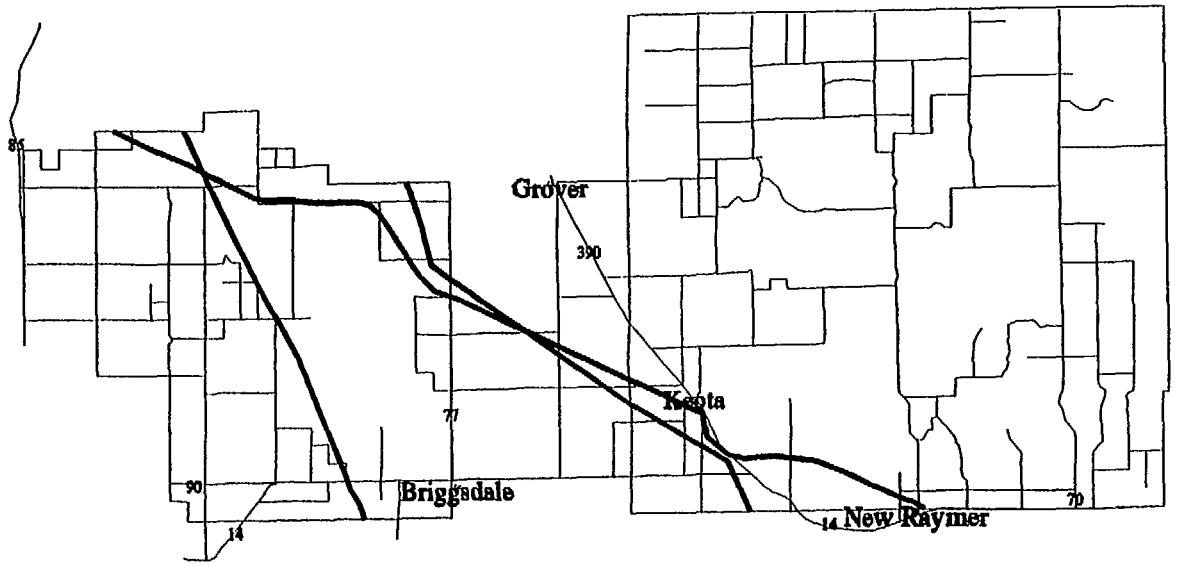
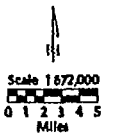

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
Utility Corridors and Designated Electronic Sites
Legend
Utility Corridor
Electronic Sites
Deadman
Red Feather Lakes
Livermore
Buckhorn
Fort Collins
Cameron Pass
Masonville
Drake
Loveland
Willow Creek Pass
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
Estes Park
Twin Sisters
Grand Lake
Lyons
Longmont
Table Mountain
Granby
Ward
Boulder
Lafayette
Nederland
Winter Park
Mt. Thorodin
Broomfield
Bullfrog
Berthoud Pass
Arvada
Golden
Mines Peak
Idaho Springs
Loveland
Georgetown
Squaw Peak
Loveland Pass
Evergreen
Scale 1:672,000
0 1 2 3 4 5
Miles

Figure 3.2

# Pawnee National Grassland
## Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites




Legend

Utility Corridor

Electronic Sites